Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 174076
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174076

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YO, US

SUBJECT: MIHAILOVIC MEMORIAL

REF: STATE 172820

1. A BILL AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MEMORIAL TO GENERAL DRAZA MIHAILOVIC, WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE LAST YEAR, IS NOW AWAITING ACTION IN THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS OF THE HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY LUCIEN NEDZI. IT WAS REINTRODUCED AS HR 13206 ON JUNE 21, 1978 BY CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI. ACCORDING TO A SUBCOMMITTEE STAFFER, HEARINGS MAY RPT MAY BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER. SUBCOMMITTEE STAFFER HAS ADVISED US THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF NEW SUPPORT FOR THE BILL, WHICH IS BACKED PRIMARILY BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN AIRMEN RESCUED BY GENERAL MIHAILOVICH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 174076

2. JACK ANDERSON AIDE ROSENSTIEL IS INTERESTED IN THE CASE AND HAS CONTACTED DEPARTMENT AND YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI. BELOVSKI DECLINED TO COMMENT. ROSENSTIEL ASKED DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ABOUT DEPARTMENT'S OPPOSITION TO THE MONUMENT, IN THE LIGHT OF MIHAILOVIC'S EFFORTS TO SAVE AMERICAN AIRMEN. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS RESPONDED THAT

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

THESE EFFORTS WERE NOT IN DISPUTE, BUT THAT DEPARTMENT'S OPPOSITION WAS BASED ON FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF HAVING USG HONOR SOMEONE WHOM GOY, AND TITO PERSONALLY, CONSIDERED A TRAITOR. WE NOTED THAT THE PARTISANS HAD ALSO RESCUED AMERICAN AIRMEN, INCLUDING SENATOR MCGOVERN. VEST HAS TOLD BELOVSKI THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL NOT DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH ROSENSTIEL.

3. IN THE LIGHT OF POSSIBLE HEARINGS AND PRESS INTEREST, THE AMBASSADOR MAY WISH TO WRITE TO NEDZI AND OTHER SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS EXPLAINING OPPOSITION TO MONUMENT. MEMBERS ARE LUCIEN NEDZI (2418 RAYBURN), JOHN BRADEMAS (1236 LONGWORTH), EDWARD W. PATTISON(1127 LONGWORTH), LEON E. PANETTA (437 CANNON), JOSEPH S. AMMERMAN (1736 LONGWORTH), BILL FRENZEL (1026 LONGWORTH), AND DAVE STOCKMAN (1021 LONGWORTH). FIRST TWO ARE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE. DEPT. WILL ALSO PREPARE STATEMENT FOR POSSIBLE HEARINGS AND WILL SEEK TO CONTACT SOME KEY MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE INFORMALLY.

4. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:TEXT OF BILL, WHICH IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO PREVIOUS PROPOSALS, IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GEMERAL DRAZA MIHAILOVICH MONUMENT IN WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 174076

ROLE HE PLAYED IN SAVING THE LIVES OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE HUNDRED UNITED STATES AIRMEN IN YUGOSLAVIA DURING WORLD WAR II.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, THAT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 2 OF THIS ACT, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR SHALL PERMIT THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN AIRMEN RESCUED BY GENERAL MIHAILOVICH TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN A MONUMENT TO GENERAL DRAZA MIHAILOVICH, IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE HE PLAYED IN SAVING THE LIVES OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE HUNDRED UNITED STATES AIRMEN IN YUGOSLAVIA DURING WORLD WAR II, AS DESCRIBED IN SUCH COMMITEE'S PETITION TO CONGRESS CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION OF SUCH MONUMENT. SUCH MONUMENT SHALL BE OF APPROPRIATE DESIGN AND SHALL BE LOCATED ON FEDERAL PUBLIC LAND WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OR ENVIRONS. THE DESIGN AND LOCATION OF THE MONUMENT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION, THE FINE ARTS COMMISSION, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

SEC. 2. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN AIRMEN RESCUED BY GENERAL MIHAILOVICH SHALL ACCEPT PRIVATE FUNDS WHICH SHALL BE THE SOLE SOURCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SUCH MONUMENT. THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR SHALL ONLY PERMIT SUCH COMMITTEE TO BEGIN THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH MONUMENT WHEN HE DETERMINES THAT SUCH COMMITTEE HAS SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO COMPLETE SUCH CONSTRUCTION AND TO PROVIDE FOR SUCH MAINTENANCE; EXCEPT THAT SUCH COMMITTEE MUST HAVE SUCH FUNDS NO LATER THAN TWO YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THIS ACT. UNQUOTE. VANCE

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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